

NEWS OF BROADCASTERS, ON AND OFF THE RECORD,

By *Swarf*

and led the life of an Indian student. She gave three recitals and a Shakespeare reading, and sang some Shakespearean songs. "Since then I've been



VICTORIA KINGSLEY
Temple bells in Benares

in Benares, staying with a musicologist who is recording a lot of Indian music. Much of this I enjoyed from an upstairs balcony and behind a stone trellis, as women did in the old days," says Miss Kingsley. "and my own practising of Bengali songs mingled with the temple bells. I now have an authentic folk music drum—a little two-ended barrel—and it will accompany me to Australia in June and later to New Zealand." She made a few recordings in Delhi for All India Radio before flying to London.

WHEN it started at 4YA in September of last year Dunedin's Reel and Strathspey Club's programme became popular overnight. It closed down in



FAMILY FAVOURITES is the title of a series of fortnightly studio recitals to be broadcast by 2XA Wanganui, starting on Sunday, April 12. The artists (above) are Phyllis and Allan Brown (vocalists), and Yvonne Purver (pianist). Programmes will include well-known melodies in solo and duet form, and piano selections

N.Z. LISTENER, APRIL 10, 1953.

December, but now it is back—on Thursdays, at 8.30 p.m. Joe Wallace, who conducts the club. SCOTTISH was quite surprised by DANCING the large number of letters he received regularly but he was even more astonished to find that Scottish country dancing is practised in many parts of New Zealand. The bands of Jimmy Shand, Jim Cameron, Bobby McLeod, and others, are providing the music.

WHEN Walter Midgley swallowed his false moustache as the Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto* at Covent Garden recently he was, it appears, following good Royal Opera House precedent. The story goes that when the tenor John Templeton was singing CLOSE SHAVE in *I Puritani* he inhaled his false beard and ejected it so forcibly that it temporarily blinded a violinist in the orchestra pit. It is reported that Midgley, who carried on with the performance though in some pain, said that the quality of his singing was affected by the foreign body on his larynx. A member of the audience, however, said there was nothing to be noticed. A critic has commented that Mr. Midgley still sounded a lot better than some tenors one could name who usually sound as if they had swallowed not merely their moustaches but their whole wigs before the performance began.

JUST before he left for Evans Bay to catch the Sydney flying boat the other day, Pat Searson called with an introduction from a mutual friend in the North. This tall and pleasant young Australian-born singer came to New Zealand with his parents when he was 10 years old. BACK TO SYDNEY Since then he has been a school teacher and dance band leader as well as a singer with Auckland cabaret and dance engagements. On a recent visit to Australia he made something of a name for himself as a guest artist on the ABC network, and with Australian commercial stations. He has appeared with the Limb



PAT SEARSON

Teenage Show at 2UW, and with Jim Gussey's Band. Now, he told me, he is hoping for greater things in Australian radio.

FOR the last four years, during the summer, Phil Shone has taken his morning microphone from the studio to open-air lookouts round about Auckland to give 1ZB listeners descriptions of all sorts of shore and maritime activities. You may hear BREAKFAST WITH SHONE him say something like this: "This is Station 1ZB Auckland, broad-

casting from the top of a building on Parnell Rise. It's a lovely morning; the Baroona has just pulled into the wharf from Waiheke and here's the Rangitane coming up Rangitoto Channel. And as I'm talking to you, you may hear the sound of the Tasman flying boat as it roars overhead on its way to Sydney." With a cheerful brightness, just done to a turn, Shone makes a valuable contribution to the popularity of 1ZB's *Breakfast Session*. He gives frequent and regular time announcements, information about the weather, tides, shipping and so on, and varies these with an occasional broadcast of a school choir from as far afield as Ngaruawahia, Warkworth or Pukekohe. He is always on the lookout for items to interest children, and his latest idea for varying the programmes is the reading of letters from overseas travellers. Not long ago Hazel Downey, aged 13, of Te Kauwhata, when travelling through the Australian States regularly sent back entertaining descriptions of her tour. Then an Auckland businessman sent a weekly bulletin of his travels on the first leg of a trip round the world—all making first-class broadcasting material.

WHATEVER else he may do, a reviewer has to ask himself, and answer to his public's satisfaction, three basic questions. First, what did the writer of the book

THREE QUESTIONS set out to do? Second, did he succeed in doing it? and third, was that sort of book worth writing, anyway?—From a New Zealand Broadcasting Service Book Shop programme.

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